

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously presented): In an image forming apparatus for forming a magnet brush on a developer carrier and causing said magnet brush to contact a latent image formed on an image carrier to thereby develop said latent image, said developer carrier comprises a sleeve and a stationary magnet roller accommodated in said sleeve,

said magnet roller includes a main pole configured to cause the developer to rise in a form of the magnet brush and an auxiliary pole configured to help said main pole exert a magnetic force,

a ratio of a distance between said image carrier and said developer carrier, as measured at a boundary of a nip for development, to a shortest distance between said image carrier and said developer carrier is 1.5 or below, and an electric field including an oscillation component is formed between said image carrier and said developer carrier.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oscillation component comprises an asymmetric, rectangular waveform configured to reduce a period of time over which toner contained in the developer migrates toward said image carrier.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oscillation component is configured to oscillate at least ten times before a given point on said image carrier moves away from a range in which the magnet brush remains in contact with said image carrier.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the oscillation component is configured to oscillate at least ten times before a given point on said

image carrier moves away from a range in which the magnet brush remains in contact with said image carrier.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): In an image forming apparatus for forming a magnet brush on a developer carrier and causing said magnet brush to contact a latent image formed on an image carrier to thereby develop said latent image, said developer carrier comprises a sleeve and a stationary magnet roller accommodated in said sleeve,

said magnet roller includes a main pole configured to cause the developer to rise in a form of the magnet brush and an auxiliary pole configured to help said main pole exert a magnetic force,

a ratio of a shortest distance between said image carrier and said developer carrier to a shortest distance between said developer carrier and a metering member, which regulates the developer, is smaller than 0.8, and

an electric field including an oscillation component is formed between said image carrier and said developer carrier,

wherein the oscillation component is configured to oscillate at least ten times before a given point on said image carrier moves away from a range in which the magnet brush ~~remains in contact with~~ contacts said image carrier.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the oscillation component comprises an asymmetric, rectangular waveform configured to reduce a period of time over which toner contained in the developer migrates toward said image carrier.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): In an image forming apparatus for forming a magnet brush on a developer carrier and causing said magnet brush to contact a latent image formed on an image carrier to thereby develop said latent image, said developer carrier comprises a sleeve and a stationary magnet roller accommodated in said sleeve,

said magnet roller includes a main pole configured to cause the developer to rise in a form of the magnet brush and an auxiliary pole configured to help said main pole exert a magnetic force,

a ratio of a shortest distance between said image carrier and said developer carrier to an amount of the developer scooped up to said image carrier is smaller than $10 \text{ mm}/(\text{g}/\text{cm}^2)$ and an electric field including an oscillation component is formed between said image carrier and said developer carrier,

wherein the oscillation component is configured to oscillate at least ten times before a given point on said image carrier moves away from a range in which the magnet brush ~~remains in contact with~~ contacts said image carrier.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the oscillation component comprises an asymmetric, rectangular waveform configured to reduce a period of time over which toner contained in the developer migrates toward said image carrier.